



HUI LIMA KOKUA NEWSLETTER - Mei 2023

Hawaii Club of Ventura County Newsletter - May 2023

Calendar & Upcoming Events

MEI | May

- 1 - Lei Day
- 13 - Hui Lima Club Meeting & Show**
- 14 - Mother's Day 🌸
- 29 - Memorial Day

Hui Lima Meeting Location

Club House of the Bonaventure
10949 Telegraph Road
Ventura, CA 93004

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 13, See Schedule Below

Aloha kākou! It is time for another performance for the Bonaventure, in exchange for allowing the Hui to use their Club House free of charge. We have a very special show planned and because of this, our schedule will run a little differently and a little later:

- 12:00p** - Potluck, kaukau (food/eat), socialize
- 1:00p** - Board meeting, clean-up
- 2:00p** - Hula Show

We are very excited to have special guests **Hālau Hula O Pualanina`auali`oha** with **Lorien Sanders and Da Band!** Feel free to wear pua (flower) in your hair or lei (from last meeting or any other lei, of course!), Hawaiian shirts and more to bring on the festivities.

There is one favor to ask: please **no video recording** of the hula performance. **Pictures are ok** 🙌. Mahalo nui loa for your understanding and cooperation on this.

Lei Day's Unique History



This year marks the 95th annual official lei day celebration! May 1st is Lei Day in Hawai'i, where colorful (and fragrant!) festivities including parades, concerts, lei competitions, and other activities celebrating the lei take place across the islands.

In 1928, the first Lei Day was celebrated in the Bank of Hawai'i lobby in downtown Honolulu. It started as just a lei competition in which entries were judged according to the appropriate flower and color representations of the islands. Nina Bowman was crowned the first

Lei Queen by then Mayor Charles Arnold. By 1929, Lei Day was officially recognized as a holiday.

Even at that first celebration, the building swelled with people and soon the event was moved to Honolulu City Hall, which included a pageant and lei exhibit. Again, the event outgrew its venue and moved to Kapiolani Park, where it is still held today. Like its early days, a Lei Queen and two princesses are chosen for the Royal Court and they are the judges for the lei competition.

Interestingly, the idea to honor the lei was created by two *Honolulu Star Bulletin* writers, Grace Tower Warren and Don Blanding. Blanding was an Oklahoma native fascinated by Hawai'i and moved there in 1915. From 1921 to 1923, he was an ad writer for Ajinomoto Foods but also published poetry in the *Honolulu Star Bulletin* and became well-liked for his writings on local people and events. He later became known as the "Poet Laureate of Hawai'i."

Blanding felt that although Hawaiians celebrated all of the holidays and traditions of the mainland as well as other ethnicities on the islands, there was no distinctly Hawaiian holiday they could call their own. Grace Tower Warren came up with the date of May 1st, and together they solidified the idea to honor the lei tradition. She also coined the phrase, "May Day is Lei Day" and Leonard "Red" and Ruth Hawk composed the song with that name. Blanding is quoted as saying, "Why not have a Lei Day? Let everyone wear a lei and give a lei. Let it be a day of general rejoicing over the fact that one lived in a paradise. Let it be a day for remembering old friends, renewing neglected contacts, with the slogan 'Aloha,' allowing that flexible word to mean friendliness on that day."

We continue to celebrate these sentiments every May 1st and honor the special gift of lei, which is to be given, received, and handled with aloha.

Aloha 'Oe: Valentine "Val" Galang

Former Hui member Valentine "Val" Galang passed away recently. Family & friends are invited to attend the following:

May 4, 2023 4p-8p: Visiting hours are open, and a Most Holy Rosary will be recited at **7pm** in the Funeral Home's Chapel at Boyko & Reardon Telegraph Road Mortuary & Cremation, 15 Teloma Dr., Ventura.

May 5, 2023 10am: A Mass of Christian Burial will be held in Mission Basilica, San Buenaventura, 211 E. Main Street, Ventura. Interment will follow at Ivy Lawn Cemetery, Ventura.

Aloha 'oe, Val -
until we meet again.





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May is Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month

In May, we celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month! In the late 1970s, Jeanie Jew, granddaughter of a Chinese immigrant brought over to work on the railroads, and Ruby Moy, a second generation Asian American, sought recognition for the numerous contributions by Asian/Americans to U.S. society and infrastructure. They felt that with historical movements like the Chinese Exclusion Act, Japanese internment, and other anti-Asian sentiments that their existence and contributions were being erased from U.S. History. Through NY representative Frank Horton and subsequent politicians including Hawai'i's Senator Daniel Inouye, President Jimmy Carter, and President George H.W. Bush, and others, May was finally officially designated as Asian/Pacific Heritage Month in 1992. In 2009, it was renamed to Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

May was chosen for some significant historical events coinciding with this month. The first Japanese immigrant migration to the U.S. was recorded on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, which could not have happened without the 20,000 Asian immigrants who gave their all, some even their lives. In 1587, Filipinos were noted as first migrating to what is now California.

Today, festivals abound educating, celebrating, and sharing with the public our Asian American and Pacific Islander cultures to help recognize and appreciate where and what people have originated from and the diaspora that exists today. In fact, we have a local AAPI Heritage Festival in Oxnard this month; see next column for details. Let's get out and celebrate!

Upcoming Events in SoCal

With summer on the horizon, lots of events popping up! Here are a few for May:

'Ohana Hula at Terasaki Budokan throughout May. Easy impact Hawaiian dance for all ages. Info and sign up here:

https://give.ltsc.org/event/ohana-family-hula/e402567?c_src=BudoNews-April23

Mahalo e **Jerry Matsukado** for sharing this!

Heritage of Aloha Festival, Sat & Sun May 20 & 21, 12100 Mora Drive, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. Live music, Hawaiian & Polynesian performances, 'ukulele contest, Spam musubi-eating contest, and more. Free admission. <https://heritageofaloha.com/>

2nd Annual AAPI Heritage Festival; Sat. May 27, 12-4p, Heritage Square, 715 S. A St, Oxnard 93033. Music, vendors, performances (including Hālau Hula O Pualanina' aualī' ioha), food, & more. Free admission.



HAU'OLI LĀ HĀNAU

to our Mei birthday:

Mario Castroni

Have a wonderful birthday and enjoy your celebrations!



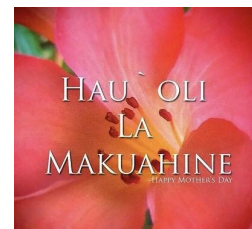
Call to Action!

As much fun is to eat and socialize, we are trying to add more substance to the Hui programs, as you've seen in the last couple of months with a delicious food demo and Hawaiian craft workshop. By the way, maika'i ka hana (good job, well done) on your leis last meeting! I hope you all enjoyed it.

We are asking other members of the Hui to volunteer their talent, 'ike (knowledge), or anything Hawaiian-related to share for future programs. It can be a presentation on a topic, a person, tradition, demo or craft, etc.

We do need volunteers for July & beyond. Please reach out to **Leah** (LKammeyer@gmail.com, 805-469-9230) with your ideas. Mahalo!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



To all the mothers and maternal figures in our lives, we give you all of our gratitude and wish you a most beautiful day!

Hau'oli lā Makuahine!

Hope to see you at our next meeting, Saturday, May 13th, 12p!

Comments, Corrections, Questions, Suggestions? Feel free to reach out and let me know if you have suggestions for future newsletters, or corrections / comments on previous ones. *Leah Kammeyer*, LKammeyer@gmail.com, (805) 469-9230